

REMARKS

Responsive to Restrictions/Elections (371), Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-15 and 24-41, as currently canceled/amended.

Election is without traverse.

With respect to the requirement to elect species, that requirement is traversed for the reasons now set forth.

The Examiner states in Paragraph 2 that this application contains directed more than one species of the generic invention:

(1) the temperate for returning into the first shape:

(a) as recited in claims 27-28;

(b) as recited in claims 29-30.

These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general invention concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The species listed above do not relate to single general invention under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features the following reasons: The common feature in these claims is the ability of a PBT object to return an initial shape, which is known in the art (JP 02-269735) and therefore does not meet the requirement of a "special technical feature" as required for unity of invention.

To achieve unity of invention, Applicants cancel claim 27 and delete the recitations for returning into the first shape in claims 28 and 29.

Applicants comment upon the reference relied upon by the Examiner as supporting lack of unity below and explain basis for the claims.

With respect to JP 02-269735 (JP'735), JP '735 discloses a shape memory copolyester molding comprising **at least three components** as the principal components selected from the group consisting of at least one dicarboxylic acid component, 70 mol% or more of which comprises an aromatic dicarboxylic acid component, and at least one diol component, 50 mol% or more of which comprises a diol component having carbon numbers of 2-6, and having a glass transition temperature and a crystalline melting enthalpy of 3 cal/g or less. This copolyester contains 20 mol% and more of isophthalic acid as the aromatic dicarboxylic acid component, or, in the alternative, one aromatic acid dicarboxylic acid component and at least two diol components (see English translation of claims 1-4 of JP '735 attached). Therefore, JP '735 does not teach a shape-memory polybutylene terephthalate laminate film comprising the polybutylene terephthalate film obtained by a blowing method recited in any one of claims 1 to 9. Applicants propose a set of amended claims 24-39 and new claims 43-54.

In amended claim 24 of the first embodiment of the present invention, the recitation regarding the first shape is given by a shaping treatment finds support at page 5, lines 8-13 with page 5, lines 2-7 of the specification.

In amended claim 25, the recitation regarding temperature finds support on page 38, lines 17-18 and lines 25-26 of the specification.

In amended claim 28, the recitation regarding temperature finds support on page 38, line 18 of the specification.

In amended claim 29 of the second embodiment of the present invention, the new recitation finds support at page 5, lines 15-26 with page 5, lines 2-7 of the specification.

In amended claim 30, the recitation regarding temperature finds support at page 43, lines 25-27 of the specification.

In new claim 43, the recitation regarding temperature finds support at page 43, line 27 of the specification.

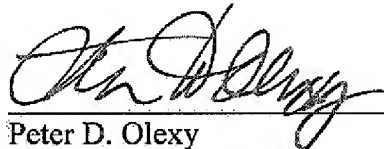
New claims 44-51 are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 29 reciting the second embodiment of the present invention and correspond to claims 31-39 similarly dependent from claim 24, respectively.

New claims 53 and 54 are derived from claim 2, respectively.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 19, 2007

I, Ikuzo Tanaka, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of Japan residing at 24-5, Mejirodai 4-chome, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan.

2. To the best of my ability, I translated relevant portions of:

Japanese Patent Laid Open No. 02-269735

from Japanese into English and the attached document is a true and accurate abridged English translation thereof.

3. I further declare that all statements made herein are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Date: October 19, 2007

Ikuzo Tanaka

Ikuzo Tanaka

ABRIDGED TRANSLATION

Japanese Patent Laid Open No. 02-269735

Laid-Open Date: November 5, 1990

Application No. 1-93649

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International Classification: C08G 63/181

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Title of the Invention:

SHAPE MEMORY COPOLYESTER MOLDING AND ITS USE

Claims:

1. A shape memory copolyester molding comprising at least three components as the principal components selected from the group consisting of at least one dicarboxylic acid component, 70 mol% or more of which comprises an aromatic dicarboxylic acid component, and at least one diol component, 50 mol% or more of which comprises a diol component having carbon numbers of 2-6, and having a glass transition temperature and a crystalline melting enthalpy of having 3 cal/g or less.
2. The shape memory copolyester molding according to claim 1, wherein 20 mol% or more of said dicarboxylic acid component is isophthalic acid.

3. The shape memory copolyester molding according to claim 1 or 2, wherein more than 1 mol% and less than 30 mol% of said dicarboxylic acid component is an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid component.
4. The shape memory copolyester molding according to claim 1 or 2, wherein 1-30 wt% of polyalkylene glycol component having an average molecular weight of 300-6000 is contained as said diol component with respect to said copolyester.